

Serial No.: 10/812,360  
Reply to Office Action of 08/01/06

### **Amendments to the Drawings**

Please replace the originally filed Fig. 6 with the Replacement Sheet attached hereto. Fig. 6 has been amended to reflect the changes required by the Examiner. An annotated sheet of Fig. 6 showing these changes is attached.

Attachments: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to Fig. 6  
Replacement Sheet of Fig. 6

## REMARKS

The Office Action of August 1, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiners comments and suggestions. It is believed the amendments above and remarks below address the Examiner's concerns. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss this application if such discussion may help to advance the prosecution of this case.

Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus comprising a body, a nut holder (281), and a nut member (282). The body comprises an end surface, a bolt insertion hole (28h), and a nut retainer (283). A bolt (253) is insertable into the bolt insertion hole (28h) at the end surface of the body in a predetermined inclined direction before the bolt is fastened. Figure 6 shows an inclined direction.

The nut retainer (283) is adjacent the insertion end of the bolt insertion hole in the body. Figure 6 shows the position of the nut retainer (283). The nut member (282) has a threaded hole and abuts the nut retainer (283). The nut retainer (283) is the part of the body through which the bolt is inserted such that when the bolt engages the nut member (282), the nut member is pulled against the nut retainer (283).

The nut holder (281) is mounted on the body to support the nut member (282) in the inclined direction. This is clearly shown in Figure 5(B).

The nut member (282) is retained and supported in the predetermined inclined direction at a position between the nut retainer (283) and nut holder (281) and continuous with the bolt insertion hole (28h.) When the bolt (253) is fastened to the nut member (282), a fastening force is applied directly to the nut retainer (283) and not to the nut holder (281).

### Drawings

The drawings are objected to as not showing a nut retaining apparatus. This term has been deleted from the claims. All other items in the claims are shown by the drawings.

In regard to Fig. 6, item 28 is the body – see Fig 4 which clearly identifies body 28 and portions of the body indicated by items 283 and 284. These portions or parts of the body have a particular function.

For example, the position of the “nut retainer 283” is being pointed to because it is the *portion* of body 28 that retains the nut. The nut retainer is part of the body and is adjacent to the nut member such that it prevents the nut member from moving (rotating) and from moving upward obliquely when attaching the bolt. Line segments are used to identify specific surface parts of the “nut retainer 283” specifically side surface retainer 283a and end surface retainer 283b. Side surface retainer 283a prevents rotation. End surface retainer 283b prevents the nut member from moving obliquely upward. (Nut member, on the other hand, is identified by 282 and the line segment drawn to the nut member.)

The specification clearly defines the location of the nut retainer and specifically points out the surfaces 283a and 283b. Although one skilled in the art would understand the use of the arrow to point out the portion of body 28 that forms the nut retainer 283, solely to advance prosecution, Fig. 6 has been amended to remove the arrow and replace it with a line segment.

Positioning section 284 is the portion of the body projecting toward the lateral frame 25. In Figs 4 and 6, it is the right side portion of the body. Thus item 284 defines this positioning section and 284a and 284b specifically define the first and second position projections located on the body. Similar to the nut retainer, the positioning section is a portion of the body. Thus each 284 is not pointing to different structures but is pointing to the positioning section of the body. Again, solely to advance prosecution, Fig. 6 has been amended to remove the arrows and replace them with a line segments. Fig. 4 has not been amended since it is believed that item 284 is clearly being pointed to.

N is directed to a nut retaining apparatus, which refers to the portion of the body, nut member, and nut retainer that connect body 28 and first lateral frame 25 to each other. A refers to the member coupling device that connects lateral frame 25 to arm 24. See Fig. 1. Both N and

A are described in the specification and one skilled in the art would understand these terms in relation to the figures.

All of the items in the recited in the claims are specifically referred to in the figures. In addition, the specification has been amended to recite FIG. 5(A) and FIG 5(B). Withdrawal of the drawing objections is requested.

### Specification

The disclosure stands objected to as not disclosing a nut retaining apparatus. It is noted that this term no longer appears in the claims. In addition, as discussed above, the nut retaining apparatus refers to the portion of the body, nut member, and nut retainer that connect body 28 and first lateral frame 25 to each other. See specification, page 12, line 4 et seq. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

### Claims

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to clarify the claims. In particular, in claim 1, the preamble has been changed to reflect an apparatus comprising a body, a nut holder, and a nut member. The nut holder is mounted on the body. The body comprises an end surface, a bolt hole, and a nut retainer. The nut retainer prevents the nut member from moving upwardly. The nut member is positioned between the nut holder and the nut retainer. Claim 1 also clarifies that when a bolt is threaded into the nut member, the nut member moves up against the nut retainer and the force is applied against the nut retainer.

When the bolt is fastened to the nut member, the nut member moves obliquely upward and abuts against the nut retainer in the predetermined inclined direction. Attention is drawn to paragraph 33 of the specification.

Thus, once a bolt is fastened to the nut member, the nut member is connected directly to the body (nut retainer) and the fastening force is applied only to the nut retainer, not to the nut holder. Thus, the nut member is securely fastened in a predetermined inclined position.

Similar amendments were made to claim 15.

Claims 1-22 stand rejected as being indefinite. The term “tangent” has been deleted from the claims and replaced by language describing the insertion of the bolt from the end surface and past the nut retainer in an inclined direction from the end surface. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, 15-16, 19-20 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Schaaf (U.S. Patent 2,820,499.) Claims 7, 11, and 21 remain rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Schaaf.

Schaaf describes a floating, swiveling anchor nut. When the bolt is fastened, it may be in an inclined direction; however, Schaff requires the step of adjusting the direction of the nut member *before* the bolt is fastened. In contrast, in the instant claims, the inclined direction is predetermined before the bolt is fastened. That is, the inclined direction of the bolt insertion hole exists *prior to* insertion of the bolt. The nut member is held securely in this predetermined direction by the nut holder before the bolt is fastened. The nut holder does not move or swivel as does the anchor nut in Schaff.

Moreover, in Schaaf, the nut member is connected *indirectly* to the body. Thus, when the bolt is fastened, the fastening force of the bolt engaging to the nut is applied to mounting plate 26. On the other hand, with the present invention, once the bolt is fastened to the nut member, the nut member is connected directly to the body (e.g. the nut retainer portion of the body) and a fastening force is applied only to the body, not to the nut holder.

Attention is drawn to the attached Fig. 6 and the portion marked in yellow. This is the gap that forms when the bolt engages the nut and the nut is drawn upward and obliquely against the nut retainer. The nut holder holds the nut in a ready position for the bolt.

Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by Eaton (U.S. Patent 192,620).

Eaton describes a nut lock having a washer A and a locking dog B that pivots into place against the washer to hold a nut in a locked position. The nut lock of Eaton does not hold a nut

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member securely in an inclined position as required by the instant claim. Eaton does not teach each and every element of the instant claims.

The nut lock of Eaton is not mounted on the body. Instead the nut lock comprises a washer (A) that the bolt is inserted through. The nut is put into place and the locking dog is pivoted against the washer to lock the nut into place (to prevent the nut from turning on its axis.) Thus in Eaton, the nut member is connected indirectly to the body. With such a configuration, a fastening force of the bolt engaging to the nut is applied to the washer-plate A when the bolt is fastened. As previously noted, with the present invention, once the bolt is fastened to the nut member, the nut member is connected directly to the body and a fastening force is applied only to the body, not to the nut holder.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

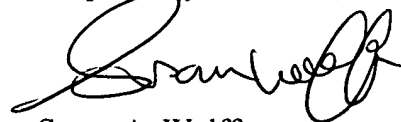
#### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Date:

11/1/06

Respectfully submitted,



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Fig. 6

